

## Erie County Bureau of Forestry History

796 MEETING NO. 40. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. NOV. 15, 1927.

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Mr. WHEELER from the Special Committee on Conservation, presented the following report, which was ordered received, filed, printed and laid on the table under the rules:

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 10, 1927.  
To the Honorable, The Board of Supervisors,  
Gentlemen:

Your Special Committee on Conservation, after holding many hearings and securing information pertaining to reforestation from conservation societies throughout the state as well as from the State conservation commission and County Forest Committees of other counties, herewith offers the following preambles and resolution and respectfully recommends the adoption of the resolution.

Whereas, Section 60 of the Conservation Law provides that a county may acquire by purchase, or gift, or take over lands in its possession within the boundaries thereof and use the same for forestry purposes and may appropriate money or issue bonds either for the purchase of such lands for said purpose, to establish forest plantations or for the care and management of forests and may undertake such work at regular or special meetings by majority vote of such board after two weeks public notice setting forth the fact that such plan is contemplated and that moneys are to be appropriated for such purpose, and that such Board shall have full power and authority to acquire, maintain, manage and operate such forests for the benefit of the inhabitants of this County, and that the net income from such lands shall be paid into the general fund of the County and used only upon order of this Board of Supervisors, and Whereas, Section 72a of the General Municipal Law also provides that the Board of Supervisors of this county may acquire for this County by purchase, gift, lease or condemnation, and hold as the property of this county tracts of land having forests or tree growths thereon, or suitable for the growth of trees, and may appropriate the necessary moneys of the county; said lands shall be under the management and control of this Board and shall be developed and used for the planting and rearing of trees thereon and for the cultivation thereof according to the principles of scientific forestry for the benefit and advantage of the county, and

Whereas, this Board has caused to be published in the newspapers in which the session laws and concurrent resolutions are required to be published, a notice setting forth the fact that this plan is contemplated and that moneys are to be appropriated for such pur-

pose, said notice having been so published more than two weeks prior to the date of this hearing, said Board giving a hearing to all persons appearing in support of or in opposition to such proposed resolution, and

Whereas, this Board believes it to be in the great interest of the people of this county to establish such communal forests, and acquire and develop such lands and appropriate moneys therefor, and

Whereas, the principal object to be considered in the maintenance of such lands shall be the sale of forest products in aid of the public revenues, and the protection of the water supplies of the people of this county, and prevent the damage to lands and property from storm, floods and erosions and to assist in re-establishing fertility of the soil and provide homes for game and fish and to encourage forest plantation under private ownership and,

Whereas, several thousands of acres of land in this county are adapted to forestry and are now waste lands and a loss to the whole community and our supply of wood and timber will soon be exhausted, and such wood and timber are of vital necessity to the people of this county and to their posterity not only in the immediate, but the near and distant future, now therefore be it

Resolved, that pursuant to the above mentioned statutes, and for the reasons and purposes hereinbefore set forth that this Board of Supervisors do establish a comprehensive system of forestry in this County of Erie and acquire and develop forest lands and establish communal forests and that such lands and forests be acquired, maintained, managed and operated for the benefit of the inhabitants of this county and not otherwise, and that the net income from such lands and forests shall be paid into the general fund of the County and used only upon orders of the Board of Supervisors, which said Board shall at all times keep and maintain absolute and complete control of said lands and forests and the avails therefrom, and that said lands and forests shall be cultivated in accordance with the best principles of scientific forestry, and be it further

Resolved, that a Forestry Committee of this Board shall have direct supervision of said lands and forests and shall investigate all matters in connection with the purchase or otherwise acquiring such lands and secure options for the purchase of such lands and in such places as they may deem wise and make full and complete reports to this Board with reference to all such matters at the regular session of this Board, and at any other time when requested by the Board so to do and when specifically

directed so to do shall acquire by purchase or otherwise lands, seedlings and trees for, in behalf of and in the name of the County of Erie and attend to the development of said lands by planting, cultivating and otherwise, and employ competent assistance, including a superintendent to prosecute and properly care for said work, lands, trees and forests, but in no event shall in any wise obligate this Board of Supervisors or the County of Erie for any amount without specific authority of this Board so to do, which authority at all times shall be exercised by this Board by resolution duly adopted at a regular or special meeting thereof. Such forestry committee shall make such rules and regulations with reference to said lands and forests and the use and care and protection thereof as they shall deem wise, but such rules and regulations shall at all times be subject to the approval of this Board. Such Committee shall, however, cause necessary and proper inspection of said lands and forests and trees whenever they shall deem it proper or necessary so to do, and be it further

Resolved, that there be and is hereby appropriated for the above mentioned purposes the sum of \$55,000.00, and be it further

Resolved, that of the said sum there be made available the sum of \$15,000 for the year 1928 to be levied and assessed against the taxable property of the County liable therefor, and be it further

Resolved, that of the remainder, or \$40,000.00, of the said sum there be levied and spread against the taxable property of the County of Erie, liable therefor, in each of the years 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932, at the annual session of the Board of Supervisors, the sum or amount of \$10,000.00; all for the above mentioned purposes, and when such funds are collected the same shall be paid to the County Treasurer of this County and credited to the account of Forest Lands and Communal Forests.

Resolved, that such County Treasurer shall pay out said funds only after specific authorization of this Board upon the warrant of the Forestry Committee duly countersigned by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and for the purposes herein set forth, and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

E. M. WHEELER,

Chairman,

REGINALD P. LONG,  
C. SEILHEIMER,  
EDWARD J. ENDRES,  
IRA H. VAIL,  
WARD J. WILBER,  
R. M. TILLOU.



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## ERIE COUNTY WILL HAVE OWN FORESTER

C. D. Kingsbury Employed.  
Is Second County Forester  
in United States.

By LEROY E. FESS.

With the employment of C. D. Kingsbury of 237 Tacoma avenue as forester for Erie county, Chautauqua loses its distinction of being the only county in the United States to have a forester. Mr. Kingsbury is the second county forester in the United States.

Coincident with Forester Kingsbury's new position, which has just been created for him, is being launched a big county-wide reforestation program. This will start immediately—in fact, it is already under way. Erie county, while not first to get into this work, intends to distinguish itself by doing the job in a big way.

Final organization arrangements were completed at a meeting held in Buffalo this week and to which representation was invited from various clubs and societies in the county. Twenty-six responded, including the county conservation society, various rod and gun and fish and game clubs scattered about the county, Boy Scout councils, the farm bureau, the grange, and various city clubs like Kiwanis.

### Advisory Council Formed.

This initial representation has been organized into a forestry advisory council, and the following members were elected to comprise the executive, or actual working, committee:

E. M. Wheeler, supervisor of the township of Sardinia, president; Sanford Hubbard, East Aurora Fish and Game club, vice president; Arthur B. Clark, East Aurora, secretary; J. B. Hoyt, Orchard Park, representing the grange; O. F. Georgi, Buffalo Izaak Walton league; Thomas McKeary, Marilla, farm bureau; George J. Rennie,

Milgrove, county conservation society, and Supervisor Herbert P. Webster of Alden, representing the Dairymen's league.

The new council as a whole will function in an advisory way, as its name implies, and will assist in drawing up the program for educational and extension work that will accompany the campaign.

### Idle Lands Purchased.

Erie county's new step in reforestation is a brain-child of the board of supervisors, which has purchased 400 acres of idle lands in the town of Sardinia and has appropriated \$25,000 for the carrying on of the work. It is expected that more lands will be purchased shortly.

First actual work of reforestation under the new regime will be done on the Sardinia land, where Forester Kingsbury promises trees will be planted as soon as the weather permits. One hundred acres or one-fourth of the purchase will be planted this year, according to Mr. Kingsbury. This will require the setting of approximately 120,000 trees.

The new county forest will be used largely for show and demonstration purposes, it being the plan of the reforestation project to have an object lesson right in front of the farmers, so that they will take more interest in their own woodlots and come to regard forests as crops, the same as they do their other agricultural ventures.

### Will Reforest Land Near Roads.

To acquaint city folks with the advantages of reforestation the county intends to acquire small strips of land bordering on main traveled roads where demonstration forests will be started and maintained.

Forester Kingsbury will direct the planting of trees of all organizations that heretofore acted independently in this respect. It is expected also to carry on considerable work in the schools, by organizing boys' and girls' reforestation clubs. This is done in other counties under the 4-H or Junior Project club plan.

Erie county dropped its junior project work several years ago, but it is expected now that it will be reinstated to take care of this new need for forest clubs among the school children. Erie county, according to Forester Kingsbury, has 40,000 acres of land not suited for agricultural purposes and which is desirable for forests. There are 125 wood using industries in the county, he said.

### Is Son of Major Kingsbury.

Forester Kingsbury is a Buffalonian and the son of Major J. J. Kingsbury of the U. S. Veterans' bureau. He graduated from the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, in 1920, and for the last two years has been engaged in forestry work in Florida and Georgia.